

Zinny Ezete
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Appropriations - DMHAS

My name is Zinny Ezete, and I am a Registered Nurse with The Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

I am speaking against the proposed cuts to DMHAS in the Governor's budget. It goes without saying that the work and services that the diligent hard-working people in the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services provide saves lives and we take care of the mentally emotionally ill as well. Workers in the state of Connecticut are tired of being scapegoated by government when government fails to figure out how to fix its economic issues. Enough is enough! There is no way that a man or woman in the state of Connecticut who gets up every day and goes to work should be to blame for why the economy is not working. Workers have kept up their end of the deal. They show up every day to work. They punch-in. They do their best, and most workers go above and beyond in their jobs, often with little or no recognition. They deserve a secure middle class income. They deserve to be able to put their kids through college. Workers deserve to be able buy house. They deserve to be able to take care of their aging parent. They deserve to be able to have health insurance to take care of themselves and their loved ones. They deserve a secure retirement through a good pension, but most of all Connecticut workers deserve the American dream!

That is what this is about here today. These proposed cuts don't just result in a human being losing their job and livelihood, these cuts are an attack on the American dream. We are sick of be told to do more with less. The department of mental health and addiction services provides substance-abuse treatment services for people trying to escape the chains of addiction. As you are well aware, Connecticut in recent years has become crisis center of opiate addiction and overdoses. The numbers have been skyrocketing, and cutting the people who work in these facilities will mean more overdoses, with more families losing loved ones, and more grief stricken residents.

How many more people need to die of drug overdoses in Connecticut? How many people should have to suffer with opiate addiction because of a budget that would cut DMHAS? How many loved ones should have to bury their family members because they couldn't get the services they needed to save their lives just to save money? This is morally wrong and I strongly propose that you would reject these cuts, which represent nothing more than an attack on families and workers in Connecticut. This is anti-family, anti-worker and anti-American dream proposed budget that will only serve to set Connecticut back even further. Thank you.